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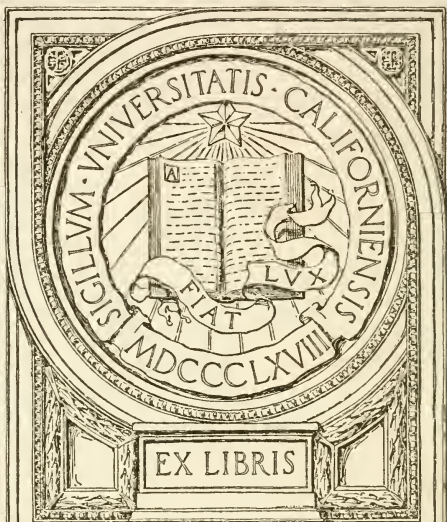
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# War-Ballads and Verses

By W. H. Mills



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# WAR-BALLADS and VERSES

BY  
WILLIAM HATHORN MILLS

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA  
THE BARNUM & FLAGG COMPANY

1917

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## *Of One Heart*

April 20, 1917.

SIDE by side the banners stood  
In the great Cathedral Choir—  
Sign of two nations' common blood,  
Two nations' one desire.

Side by side, to the breeze unfurled  
'Neath Heaven's canopy,  
The Stars and Stripes of the Western World,  
And the Union Jack, flew free.

Whether as call or orison,  
They spoke of brotherhood—  
Of hearts that beat in unison,  
Seeking a world-wide Good.

They prayed, and pray, for Victory;  
Aye, and they call to fight;  
Yes, but the cause is Liberty:  
The fight is for the Right.



## *CONTENTS*

	Page
Of One Heart.....	3
Names to Conjure With.....	7
Caritas Humani Generis.....	8
E Pluribus Vnum.....	10
Heroes .....	11
Bellerophons .....	12
En Avant .....	13
They Also Serve.....	14
Virtutis Causa .....	15
Sea-Dogs .....	16
Non-Combatants .....	17
Noms de Guerre.....	18
Irrepressibles .....	19
Runners .....	20
Some Keepsake .....	24
A Man of War.....	25
The Call of the Drum.....	26
Off the Breton Coast.....	28
In the Bay of Biscay.....	29
In the Straits of Otranto.....	31
A Ballad of the Grand Fleet.....	33
Hail! Canada .....	34
Our Dead .....	35

NOTE—For details of the facts which suggested the ballads contained in this booklet see *The Times History of the War*; *The National Review* of July, 1917; *The Illustrated London News* of June 23, 1917; *The Graphic* of May 26, 1917.



## *Names to Conjure With*

SOME songsters sing of maidens' charms,  
 Of lovers' trysts on moon-lit shore,  
 But when our Country stands in arms,  
     What shall we sing but songs of war?

In days of old, when Persia's swarms  
     Swept westward, spreading death and wrack,  
 All that was Hellas sprang to arms,  
     And hurled the fell invader back.

What time the Syrian tyrant sought  
     To stamp out Israel's ancient creed,  
 The Maccabean patriots fought  
     Till hearths and homes and faith were freed.

The tales that tell how Switzerland  
     Threw off the Austrian tyranny,  
 Lit up by names heroic, stand  
     Bright on the page of history.

Ah, words that were as tongues of flame—  
     Sempach, Bethhoron, Marathon—  
 Are ye but names now? Has your fame  
     Passed into cold oblivion?

Nay; ye are words still tipped with fire;  
     Still are ye as a trumpet-call;  
 Ye prompt our cry of righteous ire—  
     “To arms! To arms! The Hun must fall”.

### *Caritas Humani Generis*

THE war-call rings across the sea;  
 "To Arms"! the paean cries;  
 'Tis Right's demand; 'tis Freedom's plea;  
 'Tis Truth denouncing lies.  
 Sons of Columbia, shall their claim  
 Find you as freemen but in name?  
 What's Freedom's part? To seek our own?  
 Is that true liberty?  
 Nay; not for its own sake alone  
 Is any soul made free;  
 Free!—'tis the children's epithet,  
 And that means claims that must be met.  
 Parents and children, each to each,  
 Owe love and sympathy;  
 Friendships may end or suffer breach;  
 The blood-bond cannot die;  
 Mankind are God's great family,  
 And woe to them who flout that tie!  
 The service of Humanity—  
 Of souls by ills beset—  
 That's duty in epitome,  
 And duty means a debt;  
 Debts must be paid; aye, and the call  
 Of Charity comes first of all.  
 Abou Ben Adhem, as he slept,  
 Saw how, in Heaven's purview,  
 The second great commandment kept  
 Means the first rule kept too;  
 "Am I my brother's keeper? I?"—  
 That is a Cain's apology.



Half-dead upon a hill-side road  
 A wounded traveller lay;  
 Levite and Priest saw him, and strode  
 Serenely on their way;  
 'Twas left to a Samaritan  
 To save from death that wounded man.

Both Priest and Levite would have pled  
 Privilege as their plea;  
 They feared defilement—they'd have said—  
 Some loss of sanctity;  
 With them self-interest came first—  
 Excuse of all excuses worst.

"Our Country first", some voices cry;  
 If that means, "Motherland  
 Has higher claims than family  
 Or self", the cry will stand;  
 What if it means, "Let the world slide,  
 So long as we and ours abide"?

Nay; the world's Good, the rule of Right,  
 Truth, Honour, Charity—  
 These things come first, and they who fight  
 For world-wide equity—  
 For weaklings by the strong down-trod—  
 Fulfil their duty unto God.

True children these, and not less true  
 They who, to serve God's will,  
 Under the Red Cross ensign do  
 Their work, and witness still,  
 As erst the Good Samaritan,  
 "God's glory is the good of Man".

NOTE—"Free" comes from a root which meant "dear". It distinguished the children of the family from the household slaves. Hence the later sense.

*E Pluribus Vnum*

THUS then we meet the tyrant's threat—  
 We of America,  
 And, with stern resolution, set  
 Our battle in array.

"Old Glory" stands for Liberty;  
 "Old Glory" stands for Right;  
 Its Stars and Stripes speak Unity,  
 And now its call is "Fight":

"Fight for your own, but fight not less  
 For the world's common good;  
 Fight for a rule of righteousness,  
 For world-wide brotherhood:

"Stand, to withstand the insolence  
 Of truculent war-lord;  
 Strike, to beat down the brute offence  
 Of mailed fist and drawn sword:

"For God, for Honour, for Redress  
 Of wrongs and injuries,  
 For Little Nations in distress—  
 These be your battle-cries".

We answer to that call and plea,  
 And gird us to the fight;  
 We will not stand for Tyranny;  
 We will not fail the Right.

Spirit of Lincoln, shape once more  
 Our country's destiny,  
 And make the issue of her war  
 Triumphant victory.

*Heroes*

V. C.'s "for valour"—as we scan  
 The tale of deeds that won this glory,  
 Our wonder is that any man  
 Could do the deeds, could make the story.

Here, one man does the work of ten,  
 With ten men's grit, pluck, self-reliance;  
 There, half a company of men  
 Sets half a regiment at defiance.

Stories of Paladin and Knight—  
 Tales that we called and reckoned fancies—  
 Seem, in the blaze of this new light,  
 Not myths, but true-to-life romances.

Scornful of wounds, of risks, of odds,  
 Heroes press on where duty calls them;  
 Say, are they men or demigods,  
 Whom naught rebuffs, as naught appals them?

Just men, but men to whom the sense  
 Of duty is an inspiration;  
 To whom death means the expedience  
 Of one man dying for the nation.

This is the Master's spirit; it  
 Made Curtius leap into the chasm;  
 A flame, by love and honour lit,  
 It is divine enthusiasm.

*Bellerophons*

(Flight Sub-Lient. R. A. J. Warneford, V. C.,  
R. N. A. S.)

NOT now on land alone or sea  
Does war's grim conflict fare;  
Aircraft have their artillery,  
And battle in mid-air.

They scout, report the foe's intent,  
Tackle each hostile plane;  
In fact they use the firmament  
As it were land or main.

On works that shelter submarines  
They drop their compliments;  
They smite the dirty Zeppelins  
That slaughter innocents.

Little has war now of romance  
Upon the ground below,  
Save when the pipes skirl the Advance,  
Or lance-charge breaks the foe .

But where, manoeuvring in high air,  
The flying squadrons fight,  
Or airplane duels with airplane, there  
Is glamour of war all right.

The spirit of the old mariners,  
Who sailed o'er unknown seas—  
Is it in the adventurers  
Who dare such deeds as these?

If they—and still Drake's drum is heard—  
 With us yet bear their part,  
 His spirit, who singed King Philip's beard,  
 Warneford, was in your heart.

You won Victoria's Cross; you won  
 More than the prized V. C.;  
 For Freedom's thanks and benison  
 Hallow your memory.

### *En Avant!*

AH, France, fair France—never more fair  
 Than now when, in your agony,  
 You face the Hun; your gallantry  
 Is beauty such as Spirits wear.

We watched you at Verdun, and there,  
 As your thinned ranks smote Prussia's pride,  
 Saw what you are—how fair, and cried,  
 "C'est magnifique, et c'est la guerre".

"The Old Guard dies"—'twas said of yore—  
 "Aye, but surrenders not"; that soul  
 Is yours, and, while the ages roll,  
 Shall be the glory of your war.

It never dies—that Gallic mood;  
 It was in Amadis, La Pucelle,  
 Roland, Bayard; Kelt and Gæil  
 Bred it in France; it's in the blood.

Not vain your stand; now comes the Advance;  
 The Hun gives way; his doom is nigh;  
 Upon him with your chivalry,  
 And hurl him headlong! VIVE LA FRANCE!

*“They Also Serve Who Only Stand  
and Wait”*

(Boy J. T. Cornwell, V. C., H. M. S. “Chester”.)

HALL-MARK of the heroic soul,  
And stamp of chivalry,  
“For Valour” stands upon the scroll  
Of the V. C.

It pictures warriors in the fight,  
In battle’s fierce pell-mell,  
Or Red Cross knights at work, despite  
Bullet and shell.

Valour—it is a word that speaks  
Of strength, of manhood’s crown—  
Strength that beats back offence, and breaks  
Defiance down.

Yet women have been valorous, for  
True valour is of the heart;  
And one mere lad at Jutland bore  
A hero’s part.

Wounded to death right at the start,  
He yet stuck to his post,  
Waiting for orders; his brave heart  
Recked not the cost.

He takes his place among the Three,  
Staunch as their ironclads,  
Who on that day won the V. C.—  
This lad of lads.

Ah, Sailor Boy, you died, 'tis true,  
 But lives thus given live on;  
 Your life laid down meant life for you  
 Not lost, but won.

### *Virtutis Causa*

(Piper D. Laidlaw, V. C., K. O. S. Borderers)

LAND of my forbears, how shall I,  
 An exile on a foreign strand,  
 Tell out your manhood's gallantry:  
 Their doughty deeds on sea and land?

Yet, for at times some news comes thro'  
 To these far parts, I can record  
 A deed, not less of derring-do  
 Than bayonet-charge or stroke of sword.

The King's Own Scottish Borderers stood  
 In act to rush a Prussian trench—  
 To rush it thro' a hell that would  
 Have made a salamander blench.

Half-choked by gas, one company  
 Wavered a moment as in doubt;  
 The pause caught Piper Laidlaw's eye,  
 Who promptly straightened matters out.

Upon the parapet he sprang,  
 And, strutting calmly to and fro,  
 Made the pipes speak; their music rang  
 A slogan to the lads below.

"The Standard on the Braes of Mar"

Lifted them, thrilled them, swept them on,  
Till from the avalanche of their war  
The Prussians fled; the trench was won.

He skirled away their doubt; he skirled  
Them thro' that hell to victory;  
They would have charged across the world  
After his pipes—that company.

Piper and pipes required repairs,  
Later; the pipes, for all to see,  
Are set in silver; Laidlaw wears  
A cross that labels him V. C.

### *Sea-Dogs*

WHAT of our ships—our mighty Battle-Fleet?  
What has it done thus far in this world-war?  
Has it made history that shall repeat  
The fame of Gravelines and of Trafalgar?

The fight off Jutland—aye, a gallant fight—  
And some few tussles in the Northern Sea:—  
That seems its published record. Has its might  
Done nothing else to match its majesty?

The shores of Britain and of France kept free  
From trespass of invasion; host on host  
Of fighting men and of artillery  
Sent without loss or hurt from coast to coast:

Our seas patrolled: blockaded Germany:  
Trade routes protected: U-boats sunk or caught:  
Armed raiders hunted down from sea to sea:—  
At business such as this our Fleet has wrought.



What sort of work has this meant? Work of brain  
 Not less than work of heart and hand and eye:  
 A vigilance as of watch-dogs: the long strain  
 Of ceaseless, tireless, patient energy.

A burden of responsibility  
 Such as no navy ever bare before—  
 That is the weight our War-Fleet bears; 'twould try  
 The strength of Atlas, and the might of Thor.

Seamen of Britain, we, whom Britain claims  
 As her own children, doff our hats to you;  
 And, on the scroll that bears the mighty names  
 Of Drake and Nelson, set your record too.

### *Non-Combatants*

NOT warriors only win and wear  
 The cross that bears Victoria's name;  
 Doctors and chaplains do and dare  
 As valiant deeds, and share their fame.

Aye, in the battle's very heart,  
 On ground swept by artillery,  
 These sons of peace have borne their part  
 With all a warrior's gallantry.

Each in the order of his work,  
 They, in the open, under fire,  
 Rescue and help; they never shirk  
 Or balk, and never seem to tire.

It's shortened now by many a gap—  
 The roll of the R. A. M. C.;  
 It makes no matter; hap what hap,  
 They carry on their ministry.

The Red Cross on our side displayed  
 Attracts, too oft, the Prussian's aim;  
 By them, ah shame! it has been made  
 A blind; yet Britain plays the game.

And so among the names, that claim  
 Place in the roll of our V. C.'s,  
 Are names of heroes, whose high fame  
 Is just a tale of ministries.

### *Noms De Guerre*

THEY make their own Tanks now—the French;  
 Tanks that are quite all right;  
 They'll smash thro' wire; they'll rush a trench;  
 They'll stand fire, and they'll fight.

They're named "Patte de Velours", "Mounette",  
 "Malèche", et caetera;  
 E. g., one bears the *étiquette*  
 Ironic—"Pourquoi pas?"

When Job was living, a war-horse  
 Was said to neigh "Ha, Ha";  
 To-day this Gallic Tank, of course,  
 Challenges, "Pourquoi pas?"

While British Tanks are doing their stunt  
 By Ypres and Arras,  
 Their French mates on the Champagne Front  
 Do ditto. Pourquoi pas?

French planes and British tumble Fritz  
 Headlong du haut en bas;  
 French Tanks and British give them fits  
 Below. Et pourquoi pas?

“Patte de Velours”? Well, she, I guess,  
 Has claws that are as cats’,  
 Sheathed, as it were, in velvet; yes;  
 But cats are death on rats.

Ah, Tanks of France, if there were need,  
 I’d wish you added might;  
 I wish you, as it is, “Good Speed”,  
 And triumph in the fight.

And as for you, whose soubriquet  
 Is that grim “Pourquoi pas?”,  
 I send you, tho’ I’m far away,  
 A British cheer—“Hurrah!”

### *Irrepressibles*

SIX thousand unattached Marins,  
 Formed into a brigade,  
 Were sent by the French Admiralty  
 To bring the Belgians aid.  
 Their Brigadier, as well beseemed,  
 Was Admiral Ronarc’h:  
 A gallant soul, in whom there dwelt  
 The spirit of Jeanne d’Arc:  
 The fire of Keltic chivalry,  
 Of valour quick and stark.

Just Breton lads, for the most part,  
 They were, and under age;  
 But all, from Admiral downward, shared  
 One goodly heritage,  
 For theirs were Breton hearts, and theirs  
 The old Breton courage.

They went to Ghent to bar the way  
 Against the Huns' advance;  
 They fought at Melle, and there upheld  
 The name and fame of France.  
 Then Antwerp fell, and they were sent  
 Off to Dixmuiden, there  
 To hold the town, and guard from breach  
 The line of the Yser.

"Hold on for two days, if you can"—  
 The Admiral was told;  
 For near a month he stoutly kept  
 The Belgian stronghold—  
 Kept it against a foe whose force  
 Outnumbered his ten-fold.

What did that mean? It meant that Krupp  
 Guns showered their shot and shell,  
 Day after day, on them, and made  
 The little town a hell.  
 It meant that, horde by horde, the Huns  
 Swept onward to the attack,  
 And that each furious assault  
 Was met, and beaten back.

All this for near a month; at last,  
 Tho' not till Yser's flood,  
 Let in, had fortified the line—  
 The gap that they made good—  
 This band of heroes quit the post,  
 Now hallowed by their blood.

France gave them for their gallantry  
 A banner of their own;  
 And still, by one battalion

Guarded, that flag is flown:  
 An echo and a memory  
 Of Roland's gonfalone.

O Fusiliers Marins, to you  
 Naught seemed impossible;  
 Whether as militant Marins,  
 Or—well, as half-grown-up gamins,  
 You're irresistible.

### *Runners*

(Pte. J. Miller, V. C., Royal Lancaster Regt. Pte. L.  
 E. Mallery, M. M., Tenth Canadian Battalion.)

'TIS parlous work, and yet it brings  
 Naught of the joy of fight,  
 Naught of the high romance that erst  
 Charmed Paladin and Knight:  
 A humbler task, a task that claims  
 Courage and caution too:  
 Caution not less than courage: wit  
 Not less than derring-do—

That is the runner's work; he must  
 Bear messages at need:  
 Must cross the open oft, and trust  
 His luck will be good spede;  
 Yet must he run no needless risks,  
 Would fling his life away;  
 Upon his errand's issue hang  
 The issues of the day.

“More haste”, the proverb says, “worse spede”—  
 He has that warning pat;  
 And yet that counsel, if the need  
 Be instant need, falls flat;  
 The venture, he reckons, must be made,  
 And he lets it go at that.

At times it falls to him to bear  
 Despatches thro’ the night;  
 At times he has to get them thro’  
 The pell-mell of the fight;  
 Be it by night, be it by day,  
 It’s a ticklish job all right.

A ticklish job! Ah yes; that’s why  
 A message is mostly sent  
 Not by one messenger alone;  
 Three runners bear it, each on his own,  
 To guard against accident.

It fell on a time that a messenger  
 Was shot on his outward race;  
 That meant a battalion’s strength wiped out  
 In a couple of minutes’ space;  
 Plans had been changed, and no one knew  
 Of the change where the thing took place.

Private James Miller, called to take  
 A message, and bring back  
 An instant answer, at any cost,  
 Started, nor loth, nor slack;  
 Shot thro’ the body at once, he held  
 His hand on the gaping wound,  
 Went and returned, brought the reply,  
 And fell dead to the ground.

Better the luck, and not less the pluck,  
 Of Lawrence Mallery,  
 Who ran the gauntlet not once nor twice,  
 And ran it triumphantly;  
 For he lived to tell the tale, and see  
 The fruit of his ministry.

Perils by sea, on land, aloft,  
 From U-boat, bomb and shell—  
 Thro' these our heroes fight their way,  
 As it were thro' the Gates of Hell;  
 It's all for the sake of Motherland,  
 And their Mother loves them well.

She doesn't forget their fealty—  
 The faith that their blood has sealed;  
 James Miller's deed claimed the V. C.;  
 And the medals, won by Mallery,  
 Bear, graven upon the shield,  
 Legends, as of a Magnificat—  
 This, "For Distinguished Conduct": that,  
 "For Bravery in the Field".

Britons, nay all true hearts, are proud  
 Of such fine gallantry;  
 It gives us back our hopes in man,  
 Our faith in his destiny;  
 It flashes a vision upon our eyes  
 Of an Earth redeemed by self-sacrifice:  
 Of a new Humanity.

### *Some Keepsake*

(Sergt. R. Downie, V. C., Royal Dublin Fusiliers.)

“‘I’LL bring you a keepsake, wife”—said he—  
     “A trophy of war, from France;  
 But it won’t be a German’s helm, you’ll see,  
     And it won’t be a Uhlan’s lance”.

He went to the war, and he fought the Huns,  
     And bombed them merrily;  
 Was never another of Britain’s sons  
     A starker Kelt than he.

It fell on a time, in a fierce attack,  
     That the British line was checked;  
 Some units wavered, and some fell back,  
     And the plan of assault seemed wrecked.

But Downie—his officers all were dead—  
     To the answer of rousing cheers,  
 Sang out: “Come on, the Dubs”, and led  
     The charge of his Fusiliers.

Wounded, he still pressed on: smote down  
     In his rush Hun after Hun:  
 Captured a quick-firer on his own,  
     Nor stayed till the post was won.

On leave of absence from the strife,  
     He came to his ain countrie,  
 And brought the keepsake to his wife.  
     What was it? O, the V. C.



## *A Man of War*

(Pte. T. A. Jones, V. C., Cheshire Regt.)

“**T**ODGER”—it hardly seems a name  
 To claim a place on the scroll of fame;  
 'Tis a hero's title, all the same.  
 He's Thomas A. Jones officially,  
 But “Todger” 's the name that he goes by.

“If I'm to be killed, well, killed I'll be  
 Fighting, not digging a trench”—said he;  
 So he sallied forth like an errant knight,  
 In search of some venture would mean a fight.

And first he made for a near-by spot,  
 Whence a sniper was shooting shot after shot;  
 He got that sniper at the cost  
 Of a hole in his helmet—inch high at most.

A white flag waved next caught his eye,  
 And two shots showed that it was a lie;  
 He stalked that pair, and got them too;  
 And then he pondered what next to do.

A little farther some dug-outs lay;  
 So he quietly strolled to the entrance-way,  
 And, meeting an English-speaking Hun,  
 Said—as he covered him with his gun—  
 “You tell your mates to come along,  
 For the Tommies are on them, 5,000 strong”.

When his mates came up, they found that he  
 Was herding a goodly company;  
 For he'd got just five score Huns and two  
 Paraded all, as for a review.

In a bit of a hollow stood the crowd,  
 Corralled, hands up, completely cowed;  
 He'd bidden them file out, one by one,  
 And drop their arms, and had seen it done;  
 He'd collared them—every mother's son.

His comrades rounded them up, of course,  
 But his was the all-compelling force;  
 His stark audacity, his stern voice,  
 The bombs that he grasped—all fixed their choice.

On leave of absence from the fray,  
 He came back home for a holiday;  
 Foe never saw his back, but he  
 Showed it to friends, and that shamelessly;  
 For Runcorn town was all out to greet  
 Its hero with acclamations meet;  
 But he just scuttled down a side street,  
 Nor stayed his flight till he had won  
 By backways home, and burst in upon  
 His parents—a bashful, and breathless son.

### *The Call of the Drum*

(Drummer W. Ritchie, V. C., Seaforth Highlanders.)

HE is—his portrait seems to show—  
     A lad, or little more;  
 Yet by his garb and drum we know  
     Him for a man of war.

What could he do that he should wear  
     Victoria's Cross to-day—  
 The Cross that falls to a picked few  
 For deeds of lordliest derring-do,  
     Done in the heart of the fray?

Ah, well—we think of a stripling pair,  
 Jakin and Lew by name,  
 Thro' whom the "Fore and Aft" put off  
 That soubriquet of shame,  
 And became once more the "Fore and Fit"—  
 Title of well-earned fame.

His officers, in the storm and stress  
 Of a hotly pressed attack,  
 Had fallen, and units, leaderless,  
 Or faltered, or held back.

Ritchie—the thought was all his own—  
 Sprang to a Hun trench-mound,  
 And standing there, erect, alone,  
 Beat, and re-beat, the "Charge"; not one  
 Of the British hearts in that battle-zone,  
 But leapt to the magic sound.

Above the roar of bombs and guns,  
 Rang from the parapet  
 That haughty challenge; and all the Huns  
 Fell back, as the wave of old Scotland's sons  
 Swept on with the bayonet.

The trench was carried; this business done  
 To his mind, he was content  
 To carry messages to and fro,  
 Wherever his duty bade him go  
 Thro' the hell, till the day was spent.

That's why he wears Victoria's Cross—  
 This lad, and is worthy o't;  
 Our admiration is half amaze  
 To think that he lived to wear his bays;  
 But he did. 'Tis a bonny Scot!

## *Off the Breton Coast*

AS the Huns' submarine campaign  
 Went on its gruesome way,  
 A U-boat Captain sought to claim  
 Place in Gehenna's roll of fame  
 By sinking fisher-boats—a game  
 Easy to win as play.

He hung about their fishing ground,  
 And sank them one by one;  
 The boats were lost; the crews were drowned;  
 Thus he fulfilled his daily round,  
 His rôle, of infamies, and found  
 Work worthy of a Hun.

And so this monster of the deep  
 Wrought havoc day by day,  
 Until the Hyacinthe-Yvonne,  
 A coaster from les Sables d'Olonne,  
 Cut short his game for aye.

Not a big boat, not iron-clad,  
 Was Hyacinthe-Yvonne;  
 Yes, but she bore a useful gun—  
 A gun that pumped shells on the Hun,  
 And was his doom anon.

'Twas a grim fight; the coaster's crew  
 One moment held their breath;  
 For, firing hard, the submarine  
 Shot her beneath the water-line,  
 And wounded her to death.

They didn't stop for that; they fired  
 A shell that turned the day;  
 It dealt the U-boat, just below  
 Her conning tower, a fatal blow;  
 She tried to dive, but failed, and so  
 Just stuck, perforce, half-way.

Then, as she hung, stern up in air,  
 Bows under sea, her hull  
 Served as a target for French shells,  
 And got them fair and full.

Five minutes settled her hash; what of  
 The Hyacinthe-Yvonne?  
 O, she sank too, but not till she  
 Had seen the Huns' catastrophe;  
 And all her gallant company  
 Were saved—aye, everyone.

So perish all the miscreants  
 Who play the pirate's game!  
 Theirs be the murderer's short shrift,  
 The murderer's doom no plea may lift,  
 Aye, and his deathless shame!

### *In the Bay of Biscay*

THE fishers of l'Ile-d'<sup>^</sup>Yeu—old men  
 All, and infirm—the stark  
 And young were fighting in the fray—  
 Saw signals of distress one day,  
 Hoist by a freighter in the Bay;  
 They manned the life-boat right-away,  
 And made sail for the barque.

Torpedoed by a Hun U-boat  
 The ship was all awash;  
 The life-boat reached her, and anon  
 Took off the seven—the rest were gone—  
 Who had survived the crash.

They turned and headed for the shore—  
 This little company;  
 Ah, but the wind was now a gale—  
 A gale they fought without avail—  
 That tore away their mizzen sail,  
 And swept them out to sea.

Two days and nights, with never a sup  
 Of water or a bite,  
 They battled against wind and wave,  
 And, facing aye a watery grave,  
 Did all that stout old hearts and brave  
 Might do in parlous plight.

On the third day at last they made  
 The shore of Finistère;  
 But only eight were left to tell  
 This tale of grit and dare—  
 This story how a dozen old men  
 Stuck it, and bluffed despair.

What was she after—this Norse barque,  
 That lies beneath the main?  
 All innocent of guile or war,  
 From neutral shore to neutral shore,  
 A neutral ship, she simply bore  
 Food for the folk of Spain.

Dark lies the shadow of that crime  
 Upon the coward Hun;  
 Yes, but perhaps it makes more bright,  
 More splendid to our watching sight,  
 The fame those heroes won.

I think that, when le Rôle d'Honneur  
 Is brought up, le bon Dieu  
 Will rank—because they died to save,  
 Or dared for others' sake the grave—  
 Among the bravest of the brave  
 The Old Men of l'Île-d'Yeu.

### *In the Straits of Otranto*

(A Ballad of the French Fleet.)

AS it fell out, in the world-war,  
 An Austrian submarine  
 Torpedoed, in the full moonlight,  
 A ship, Léon Gambetta hight,  
 That off Cape Leuca watched that night  
 The French blockading line.

Upon the cruiser's bridge there stood  
 Captain and Admiral;  
 They couldn't—the dynamo was wrecked—  
 Send out a wireless call;  
 The lights went out; the engines stopped;  
 And the great ship heeled, and her port side dropped,  
 As a boat before a squall.

What did they do? Their one thought was  
 For the ship's company;  
 The Captain set himself to make  
 The ship ride evenly;  
 The Admiral shouted to the men,  
 And his voice rang cheerily.

"Steady, my children! To the boats!"  
 He cried; "They are for you;  
 Nous autres, nous restons!"—so he saw  
 His duty—saw it as a law  
 Of honour—and did it too.

Many were left, for boats were few;  
 Ah well, their countenance  
 Changed not; "Courage!", they cheered—the cry  
 Rose as a paean—"We shall die  
 Together! Vive la France!"

Not seven score of the cruiser's men  
 Were saved to fight again;  
 Five times as many loyal hearts  
 Went down beneath the main;  
 Officers, one and all of them,  
 Were numbered with the slain.

Séné and André, Admiral  
 And Captain, aye, and ye—  
 Or officers or men—who faced  
 That grim catastrophe,  
 Nor flinched, truly ye were, and are,  
 A valiant company.



To France your lives were consecrate;  
 For France ye laid them down;  
 The heroes of the Birkenhead  
 Share with you their renown;  
 Aye, and amid the gallant dead,  
 Ye wear the patriots' crown.

### *A Ballad of the Grand Fleet*

(Com. Loftus W. Jones, V. C., R. N.)

THE heart of the old balladist  
 For Witherington was woe,  
 Who, when his legs were hewn in twain,  
 Upon his knee still fought amain,  
 Nor yielded to the foe.

And what but woe can our hearts be,  
 A-thinking of his death,  
 Who, as he fought in Jutland Bay,  
 Fought on with one leg shot away,  
 And cheered his men to their last fray,  
 And his, with dying breath?

Full half his company were slain;  
 His ship was sinking fast;  
 Propped up by his last gun, he helped  
 To serve it to the last;  
 It was a grim five minutes—that—  
 An agony as it passed.

His ship went down, and with her went  
 Her Captain and her crew;  
 But, 'ere the waves closed o'er the Shark,  
 Her last torpedo found its mark,  
 And a Hun ship sank too.

Ah, gallant Jones, it seemed to you,  
 And yours, a simple thing  
 To do your duty, and to die  
 For Country and for King.

The world has need of such true souls,  
 Wherever they have their birth;  
 They are the soul of chivalry,  
 Aye, and the very salt, perdie,  
 And leaven of the earth.

Our heart is woe for British tars  
 O'er whom the Atlantic rolls;  
 Yes, but it's also proud to know—  
 Proud, aye, and thankful too, I trow,—  
 That Britain breeds such souls.

### *Hail! Canada*

Strong and sweet as the Maple-tree:  
 That's what your emblem bids you be—  
 The leaf that figures your quality:

Sweet with the sweetness of loyalty,  
 Of honour, of sincerity,  
 Of cheerful generosity:

Strong with the strength of constancy,  
Of pluck, of patience, of energy,  
Of grit that defies adversity:

That's what your emblem bids you be.  
How have you answered its call and plea?  
By deeds of chivalrous gallantry.

In the great fight for liberty,  
All the Dominions valiantly  
Stood by their Mother, the Old Countree.

Aye, but when, as she stood at bay,  
She called her children to the affray,  
Who but Canada led the way?

Sweet and strong as the Maple-tree:  
That's what your emblem bids you be;  
Aye, and it's what you are, perdie.

AUTHOR'S NOTE—As I cannot find any symbolic meaning attached to the Maple-leaf of Canada, I have had to invent one—"Sweetness and Strength". The Oak-leaf, as representing the Oak-tree, symbolizes Strength. Why, then, should not the Maple-leaf figure the characteristics of its parent tree—one of the strongest of trees, and the source of Maple-sugar?

### *Our Dead*

WHAT shall we say of those who gave  
Their lives at Britain's claim,  
Nor held them dear so they might save  
Their Motherland's fair fame:

Who fought and fell for kith and kin,  
 For Freedom and the Right;  
 To whom disloyalty was sin,  
 And Justice more than Might?

From the Homeland and from afar,  
 Across the seas, they came;  
 The blood-bond drew them to the war—  
 That, and the British name.

Now, of the hearts that beat so high,  
 Many are stilled for aye;  
 And lives that seemed too young to die,  
 Too dear, have passed away.

Shall we deplore them? Hearts are rent,  
 And weeping were no shame;  
 Nay, they are lift above lament;  
 Paean, not dirge, they claim.

As Hellas in the olden days  
 Bent o'er her gallant dead,  
 And gave them—not her tears, but—praise,  
 We dry our tears, half shed;

And with the thanks, the grateful praise,  
 Of those he died to save,  
 We lay a wreath of deathless bays  
 Upon each hero's grave.











*Dedicated to Our Men-at-Arms*

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# WAR-BALLADS and VERSES

Second Series

BY  
WILLIAM HATHORN MILLS

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA  
THE BARNUM & FLAGG COMPANY

1918

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## *A Trumpet-Call*

**M**ARCH, march, sons of Columbia;  
March to the front where the Hun stands at bay;  
What is Columbia's motto? "Justitia  
Omnibus". Make it your slogan to-day.

March to the goal that lies splendid before you—  
Peace with security: tyranny slain;  
March to make answer to cries that implore you,  
"Give us our homes and our freedom again".

March to exact from the foe reparation  
For the foul wrongs he has done to the weak;  
March to bring in, thro' this great tribulation,  
Justice and Order—the day of the meek.

March, march, sons of America;  
Answer not only to bugle and drum;  
Hark! to your hearts speaks a tuba angelica;  
Gabriel calls, and his summons is "Come".



## **Contents**

	Page
A Trumpet-Call .....	3
A Battle-Hymn .....	7
Volunteers .....	8
Mercuries .....	9
Non Nobis .....	10
Stet Capitolium .....	11
Fiat Justitia .....	12
A Valley of Shadows.....	13
Une Orpheline .....	14
The Dear Old Duster.....	16
The Red Triangle.....	16
Lost and Found.....	18
Bellator Equus .....	20
The L. B. D.'s.....	21
Good Samaritans .....	22
Near Gouzeaucourt .....	23
A Testament .....	23
Ad Inferos .....	24
Pocket-Anakim .....	25
Rome .....	26
Greece .....	27
Generosa Virago .....	28
At Cuinchy .....	29
A Royal Fusilier.....	30
Dardan Bay .....	31
A Volcano .....	32
Some Private .....	33
Meditation .....	34
Laconics .....	34
A Stowaway .....	35
Pro Patria .....	35

NOTE.—For details of facts see *The Times History of the War*; *Americans at the Front*; *The Living Age*, Nov. 11, 1916; *The Battle Glory of Canada*; *The British Californian*, March and May, 1918; *The Square Jaw*.



## *A Battle-Hymn*

WHEN Israel, in the days of old,  
 Against oppressors drew the sword,  
 What stirred their hearts, and made them bold?  
 This—that the war was of the Lord.

When Jesse's stripling son defied  
 Goliath's vaunts, and laid him low,  
 "The battle is the Lord's", he cried,  
 And slung the stone that slew the foe.

Our war is of the Lord, and clear  
 Sound in our hearts those battle-words;  
 Fighting for God, we will not fear  
 Aught, for the issue is the Lord's.

LORD of Sabaoth, at our side  
 Marshal the armies of the sky;  
 So shall we smite the despot's pride;  
 So shall we break all tyranny.

The Cross on Calvary was a sign  
 Of war—war waged for Truth and Right;  
 Under that sign we fight; 'tis Thine  
 Own cause; be Thine own strength our might.

'Tis in Thy name we join the fray—  
 This earnest of earth's final strife;  
 Lord of all power, be Thou our stay;  
 Lord of all being, be our Life.

## *Volunteers*

THEY passed from the Foreign Legion  
To the Aviation Corps:  
From the service of Ambulances  
To trench-work at the fore;  
What was the voice that called them?  
What sent them to the war?

Not their own country's peril;  
No harm had touched her yet;  
With some 'twas the bond of kinship—  
Race-ties they could not forget:  
With others a sense of duty  
To the land of Lafayette.

These claims, and the like, constrained them,  
And fired their chivalry;  
But the thought of thoughts that swayed them  
Was the love of Liberty,  
And, blent with that love, a passion  
Of generous sympathy.

And so, ere the Great Republic  
Had marshalled her war-array,  
Not less than fifty thousands  
Of her sons had found their way,  
As Ambulance-workers, airmen,  
And soldiers, to the fray.

The old Crusading spirit  
Is quick in each gallant soul;



Their names with the names of Heroes  
 Stand linked on one muster-roll;  
 The Firstfruits of the Nation,  
 They have sanctified the Whole.

### *Mercuries*

NOT less at home in upper air  
 Than upon land or sea,  
 Our airmen ride the storm and cloud,  
 And, wheresoe'er they be,  
 They do their stunts, and dare all risks  
 As part of their industry.

Risks?—Aye, each moment they affront  
 Death, and it makes no odds;  
 They take all chances as they come—  
 These dauntless pteropods; \*  
 'Twas of such stuff as this, I guess,  
 Were fashioned the demigods.

Like birds they soar; like birds they glide;  
 Like birds they mount and swoop;  
 Not tumbler-pigeons can outvie  
 Them, for they loop the loop;  
 They dive to a hostile plane, and 'tis  
 As the rush of an eagle's stoop.

The army's eyes, they are its scouts,  
 And its intelligence;  
 Their bombs on enemy trench and lair  
 Fall as a pestilence;

But never a woman, never a child,  
Has hurt from their offence.

Airmen of the embattled hosts,  
Who fight for Liberty,  
Lords of the air are ye, as are  
Our sailors of the sea;  
With fleets and armies shall ye share  
The triumph of victory.

\* An epithet of Hermes, whom the Romans called Mercurius.

### *Non Nobis*

“LET not him that putteth on his harness boast  
himself as he,  
Who, as victor, puts it off”, exulting in his victory—  
Thus of old did Israel’s monarch teach Benhadad  
modesty.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Make you ready for the battle, for your battle is  
toward;  
Aye, but as the stripling David faced Goliath’s spear  
and sword;  
Not with braggart word or action, but as soldiers of  
the Lord.

“Other men have borne, are bearing still, the burden  
of the fight;  
Think of them as those whom duty led to battle for  
the Right;

Count it honour that with them you're called to break  
tyrannic might".

\* \* \* \* \*

That is what the heart and conscience of the Great  
Republic say;  
That is how she bids her children arm them for the  
far-off fray.  
Answer, children,—“God be with us, and we'll fight  
for Him for aye”.

### *Stet Capitolium*

WHETHER he sings of high romance,  
Or hymns the everlasting Sire,  
Or suits his lay to choral dance,  
Or scourges forms of base desire,  
Or paints the lady of his choice,  
Horace is still a living Voice.

Your sweetly smiling Lalage,  
Whose spirit turned a wolf to flight,  
Your little farm by Tivoli,  
Bandusia's fountain crystal-bright,  
Your haunts, your hospitalities—  
Horace, they're all before our eyes.

Orbilius flogged you when at school;  
You have our fullest sympathy,  
For we remember a ferule,  
That smote us oft and lustily;  
Would it had gotten into us  
A measure of your genius!

You sang how Regulus put aside  
 The crowds encumbering his return,  
 Refused his wife's kiss, and denied  
 Her plea with answer curt and stern;  
 "Rome must be saved; let cowards die"—  
 We hear it yet—that haught reply.

How Paulus and how Cato died,  
 Too staunch to fly, too proud to yield;  
 How stout Marcellus turned the tide  
 Of war in many a foughten field:  
 How yeomen played heroic parts—  
 You've stamped it all upon our hearts.

They left their farms to fight; they braved  
 All pains of death; and, if they fell,  
 What mattered it, so Rome were saved?  
 Her weal safeguarded, all was well.  
 The State must stand, tho' men may die—  
 That was Old Rome's philosophy.

You made them household words—the names  
 Of those who fought and fell for Rome—  
 And you—your memory lives, and claims  
 Place at their side in every home;  
 Your bones lie on a Roman hill,  
 Horace, but you are with us still.

### *Fiat Justitia*

**I**MPERIAL Rome has passed; she had her day,  
 And did her work—a work that gives her place  
 Amid the names that stand, and shall for aye  
 Stand, in the story of our earthly race.

States have their rise and fall, as man is born  
 And dies; but what they do for Truth and Right,  
 That does not die; quick as a seed of corn,  
 It lives and rises and renews its might.

Rome had her faults, but of one quality  
 Her vision was true vision; for she saw  
 What justice means and claims, and that is why  
 All later law is built upon her law.

She fell because, as she grew old, she grew  
 False to that vision, and made tyranny,  
 Not Right, her aim, till, eaten thro' and thro'  
 By vice, she forfeited her empery.

The empire of the Huns shall fall, and fall  
 Because it mocks at truth and righteousness,  
 Because its watchword, "Deutschland above all",  
 Is but a cry of pride and selfishness.

Justice demands that it should fall—demands  
 That "frightfulness" and lies and the offence  
 Of crimes that break the peace of peaceful lands  
 Should be requited with stern recompense.

It means a long, grim struggle—means, maybe,  
 That Armageddon's battle is toward;  
 Yet shall the Right prevail, and presently  
 Shall bring in the Millennium of the Lord.

### *A Valley of Shadows*

THERE'S a strip—a shifting strip—of land  
 Called "No Man's Land"; it lies  
 Betwixt two hosts; on either hand  
 War sets its boundaries.

You may hear, as you pass over it,  
 The breath of dead men's sighs;  
 You may hear, as from Abaddon's pit,  
 The moan of dying cries.

It's a hell; it's no man's land indeed;  
 It's swept by shot and shell;  
 Ghosts haunt it; evil spirits speed  
 O'er it; aye, it's a hell.

Yet soldiers cross it as they haste  
 To charge the enemy;  
 Doctors and Chaplains make its waste  
 A field of ministry.

Death's shades brood o'er that wilderness;  
 Its turf is a blood-stained sod;  
 Aye; yet it may be none the less  
 A stage to the Mount of God.

### *Une Orpheline de France*

THE troops of France, forced to retire,  
 Had crossed the Somme canal; a maid  
 Opened the sluice gates, under fire,  
 And for a day the Huns were stayed.

She, when the foe passed thro' next day,  
 Remained, and, wheresoe'er she found  
 A wounded son of France, straightway  
 Bore him to shelter under ground.

One crippled man she nursed and fed  
 For days; the Huns, by an ill chance,

Caught her and doomed her; "Do", she said,  
 "That which you will. I am of France".

A shell, just in the nick of time,  
 Scattered hard by its bric-a-brac;  
 It stopped the Huns' intended crime;  
 They fled, and then the French were back.

She went on serving France, despite  
 All risks—now guiding a patrol,  
 Now helping sufferers; naught could fright  
 Her dauntless heart, her steadfast soul.

She stood for France against the Boche;  
 For this la Légion d'Honneur  
 Claimed her—this maiden sans reproche,  
 Aye, and, as was Bayard, sans peur.

They gave her too la Croix de Guerre,  
 In token of her gallantry,  
 Who for her Motherland could dare  
 All things, nor reck if she must die.

Who was this girl of girls? Was she  
 Jeanne d'Arc's reincarnated shade?  
 Well, who shall say? She claimed to be  
 Just a French lass, a village maid.

While France can breed such maids as this—  
 Daughters as valiant as her sons—  
 She need not fear the rage, ywis,  
 Of seventy million million Huns.

## *The Dear Old Duster*

UPON the banner of our land  
 As tho' three Saints stood hand in hand,  
 Three Crosses, linked in union, stand.

They image more than what we see,  
 For, like the shamrock's leafery,  
 They figure threefold unity.

Saint George, the prince of England's knights:  
 Saint Andrew, guard of Scotland's rights:  
 Saint Patrick, who for Ireland fights:—

These three, who bore the Cross that they  
 Might be its soldiers, day by day  
 Stand in the forefront of the fray.

Shoulder to shoulder, side by side,  
 By their one faith, one hope, allied,  
 They face all mischief, and abide.

Ah! Choir of Saints, you bid us be  
 Ever and aye one company,  
 Ever and aye a Unity.

## *The Red Triangle*

INTO the trench, over the parapet,  
 And the land that no man owns,  
 With bomb, with rifle, and with bayonet,  
 Goes Tommy, and makes no bones.

He's ready for any job, no matter what,  
 That duty bids him do;



He tackles it, sticks it out, is on the spot,  
And sees the business thro'.

He does his bit in trench and in dug-out;  
Then needs and gets a rest;  
Rested he's ready for another bout,  
And keen to do his best.

But where shall he find rest—not rest alone  
Of body, but rest of heart?  
That's where the Red Triangle, on its own,  
Came in and played its part.

Then the Church Army followed; East and West  
These twin Societies  
Comfort war-weary men, and give them rest  
By tireless ministries.

Back from the firing line the fighters trudge,  
Half dazed, half sick of life,  
Just longing to forget—forget the sludge,  
The stress, the din, the strife.

They reach the Recreation huts, and there  
Find letters, book-supplies,  
Games, music, hours of prayer, and everywhere  
Kind words and friendly eyes.

There's magic in the change of thought and scene;  
Strained nerves regain their tone;  
There's no more worrying over what has been,  
Or what is to be, done.

Red Cross and Red Triangle, signs are ye  
Of noble things and blest;

And soldiers' "Welcomes"—huts or, it may be,  
Just tents—are of the best.

Honour to all who serve this ministry!  
Honoured not least be they  
Who saw the need, saw its insistency,  
And met it right-away.

### *Lost and Found*

BOYS from the slums of London, where squalor and  
crime belong,  
Taken, and trained to the tempers of souls that are  
clean and strong:  
Taught that they're sons of Britain, and, as Britons,  
must do no Wrong:—

They have answered to call and training; they have  
learnt to love the Right;  
They are keen to do their duty, and to do it with all  
their might;  
And now for Old England's honour they have gone  
forth to the fight.

They have passed to the Front in thousands, and  
have proved their mettle there;  
On war-ships, in the trenches, in the navies of the  
air,  
You may find these boys from Slumdom—here, there,  
and everywhere.

Look at the Roll of Honour; their names stand side  
by side  
With the names of Britain's heroes, who, whether  
they yet abide

Here, or have crossed the border, are her glory and  
her pride.

Or look at scenes of battle—Mons, Vendresse, La  
Bassée,  
Loos, Neuve Chapelle, Armentieres, Hill 70, Suvla  
Bay—  
Each spot can tell of our Slum boys—how they bear  
them in the fray.

There are Orders, badges, crosses, and medals, for  
gallantry—  
Distinctions marked by letters that are titles of high  
degree;  
Have Slum lads won such titles? Aye, up to the  
proud V. C.

Left to their old surroundings in the slums of Lon-  
don Town,  
Into what sort of manhood would these same lads  
have grown?  
Would it have been a manhood of honour and fair  
renown?

O Mission Schools of London, or wherever your  
“forts” may be,  
The Slum lads, that you rescued by your patient  
ministry,  
Shall rise up in the Judgment, and shall bless your  
memory.

*Bellator Equus*

A WAR of engines, of machinery,  
 Of tanks and submarines,  
 Of battleships, airplanes, artillery,  
 Of bombs and shells and mines—

That's what war is to-day; man-power, of course,  
 Must work each instrument,  
 Aye, and must fight; but the war-engine's force  
 Rules the arbitrament.

But what was it that led in old-time wars  
 The way to victory?  
 Ask the Scots Greys; ask Vivian's Hussars:—  
 That's Waterloo's reply.

But where shall the war-horse find work to-day?  
 How can he charge a foe  
 Hid underground? How can he burst his way  
 Thro' barbed wires set arow?

Ah well, the destrier waits, tho' he has done  
 His bit now and again,  
 The while his rider, lance and sabre gone,  
 Afoot hurls bombs amain.

Meantime who drags the lumbering guns along,  
 Thro' swamp and water-course,  
 Where tractors cannot pass—who but the strong,  
 Patient artillery-horse?

War-horses of the Entente, among the days  
 To come will be your day;  
 We'd like, if ever the Uhlans face the Greys,  
 To be not far away.

### *The L. B. D.'s*

LITTLE, black-coated—yes, but not  
 Devils; and yet the old-time name,  
 The Indians gave them, has, I wot,  
 A certain aptness all the same.

It spoke of dash, insistence, grit;  
 Outmatched and beat at their own game  
 The Indian braves acknowledged it  
 In this terse phrase, not all of blame.

In the first year of the world-war,  
 Ere yet the Huns had started gas,  
 The L. B. D.'s went to the fore,  
 To face whate'er might come to pass.

What came to pass was a foul blast  
 Of poisonous fumes, a noxious stench  
 That choked and dazed them; not less fast  
 They held the line; none quit the trench.

Next came the Boches, as thick as fleas,  
 Thinking the trench was now their own;  
 Gasping for breath, the L. B. D.'s  
 Rose to their feet, and mowed them down.

All that day long, with never a spell  
 Of rest, they fought, nor budged an inch;  
 Storm after storm of shot and shell  
 Smote them, but could not make them flinch.

Bidden retire they disobeyed  
 The order. Why? Because they knew  
 A counter-push was to be made;  
 They meant to back it, and see it thro'.

At last reliefs came; not till then  
 Did they fall back for a change of air.  
 That's how the Winnipeg Riflemen  
 Interpret still their nom-de-guerre.

### *Good Samaritans*

HOW do the dogs of Belgium fare  
 In the changed order of today?  
 Well, where their masters are, they are;  
 Many, that is, are in the fray.

As war-dogs some are scouts, some bear  
 Orders, some watch against the foe;  
 In fact, here, there, and everywhere,  
 Wherever the army goes, they go.

Some have dragged pom-poms to the Front;  
 Some are attached to Red Cross Corps;  
 And these are trained, and learn, to hunt  
 For soldiers wounded in the war.

One of them finds a "casualty"—  
 Hid by his own act, or by chance—  
 Picks up his cap, and instantly  
 Carries it to the Ambulance.

Then, nurse or doctor following,  
 It leads to where the sufferer lies,  
 And so brings help to him; the thing  
 Is just a round of charities.

S. Bernard would have loved, I wot,  
 These dogs, and set them by his own;  
 Nay more, they share—why should they not?—  
 The Good Samaritan's renown.

Draught-dogs of Belgium, you seem  
 To make it almost possible  
 To count the old-time Indian dream  
 Well-nigh, if not quite, credible.

### *Near Gouzeaucourt*

O YES, they were cooks and engineers,  
 And it wasn't their job to fight;  
 But the Hun broke thro', and a British post  
 Hard by was in parlous plight;  
 So they picked up rifles, and did their bit  
 To hustle him back all right.

They cooked his goose, they blazed broad trails  
 Thro' the thick of the charging mob;  
 They stood at the fighters' side and fought,  
 Tho' it wasn't at all their job,  
 Till supports came up, and the Prussian rush  
 Died out like a dying sob.

They're handy men—the men who hail  
 From far Columbia's shore;  
 If ever I get cut off, or left  
 In the lurch, by a chance of war,  
 Give me a bunch of such boys as these—  
 Cooks, engineers, whatever your please—  
 For at need they are sons of Thor.

### *A Testament*

“MON corps a terre, mon ame a Dieu, mon coeur  
 a France”—so ran  
 The soldier's will—his testament found by the  
 Ambulance;

It lay beneath his fingers, at the side of the dead  
man—

Mute witness that his dying thoughts were to  
the last of France.

“Mon coeur a France”. Is there a thing more won-  
derful on earth

Than the deep love of Motherland, the passion-  
ate reverence

That draws and binds her children to the Country of  
their birth,

To fight for her, and, if need be, to die in her  
defence?

Ah France, such sons as this are your true glory and  
your pride;

Aye, and your hope—the promise of a better,  
brighter day;

With such a brood about your knee, or weal or woe  
betide,

You shall be France the Beautiful for ever and  
for aye.

### *Ad Inferos*

“THRO’ hell to heaven”, said one, “there lies  
A way”, and our Immanuel,  
When He reopened Paradise,  
Passed to it thro’ the gates of hell.

Out of war’s hell there runs a path  
For suffering souls and innocent,  
And victims of man’s lust and wrath  
Find it a pathway of ascent.



Daughters and babes of Belgium,  
 Sent thro' a hell by brutal Huns,  
 Be of good hope; your martyrdom  
 Sets you by Bethlehem's little ones.

In the Great Father's kind embrace  
 They passed beyond all death and sin;  
 The fiends who wronged you—well, their place  
 Is Tophet, with their kith and kin.

### *Pocket-Anakim*

“BANTAMS”?—Well yes; they're undersized  
 In thew and bone, in girth and height;  
 Yet each is an epitomized  
 Edition of a stalwart knight.

They fight for all that they are worth;  
 Play all the warrior's role of parts;  
 And you may search the whole wide earth  
 In vain for pluckier, stauncher hearts.

All honour be to them who, when  
 Officialdom had turned them down,  
 Claimed right to serve as fighting men  
 The Land which claimed them as her own.

There's a division of them now  
 Fighting; and, by whatever name  
 They go, they've proved themselves, I trow,  
 Of the true mettle, “thorough game”.

*Rome*

TO rule the nations with a lordly sway:  
 To spare the conquered and war down the  
 proud—  
 That was Rome's rule of action in her day  
 Of might, when to her will the whole world  
 bowed.

Yet her dominion was no tyranny;  
 Its peace was not the peace of dull despair;  
 It made for order and for equity;  
 That Law should be obeyed, that was its care.

It helped to civilize the world; it bore  
 Its part in the uplifting of mankind;  
 It won its triumphs not alone by war,  
 But by the arts too that inform the mind.

Revealed and pictured in her world-wide sway,  
 Her Genius is her true panegyrist;  
 For what she did and taught prepared the way,  
 And ushered in the kingdom, of the Christ.

It was her last great triumph when her war  
 Clashed with "The Scourge of God", and hurled  
 him back;  
 Shade of Aëtius, lead her sons once more  
 To meet and break the selfsame foe's attack.

*Greece*

(June 29, 1917)

AT last, at last, ye join our war,  
Sons of historic Greece;  
At last; why came ye not before,  
But chose inglorious peace?

Not yours the fault, ye say; your king  
Reckoned himself the State,  
And deemed the people's voice a thing  
Entirely out of date.

Well, it was so; the moral is  
Have rulers who obey  
Your Constitution's law, for this  
Is Liberty's one stay.

In Freedom's cause ye set at last  
Your battle in array;  
So fought your forbears in the past;  
So would they fight to-day.

Plataea, Salamis, Marathon,  
Thermopylae—each name  
Is as a voice to cheer you on:  
Is as a call and claim.

Leonidas, Miltiades,  
Themistocles—your air  
Is fragrant with their memories,  
With breath of their high dare.

Fight as they fought, who would not brook  
 The invader on their coasts:  
 Who flung themselves, with never a look  
 Back, on the Persian hosts.

Ye Spirits of the mighty dead,  
 Who kept fair Hellas free,  
 March at the Hellene armies' head,  
 And win them victory.

### *Generosa Virago*

“**A** BRITISH Nurse wins Serbia's V. C.”—  
 Prowess indeed! What for?  
 For faithful service in the ministry  
 Of the Red Cross she wore?

Well, no. Her Red Crusading ministry  
 Was service good and true—  
 Was, for that matter, as a chivalry,  
 Faithful and valiant too.

But not as Sister Sandes did this brave soul  
 Win Serbia's heart of hearts;  
 'Twas as a sergeant on her army-roll,  
 An Amazon of parts.

For, when the Serbs fell back, recalcitrant  
 Against o'erwhelming might,  
 She joined the Colours as a combatant,  
 And fought as heroes fight.

“Always the first over the parapet”—  
 That was her record, won

By acts of war—acts made with bayonet  
And bomb—against the Hun.

The medal found her in a patients' ward,  
Wounded, but full of pluck;  
Britons and Serbians will, with one accord,  
Wish her the best of luck.

### *At Cuinchy*

(February 1, 1915)

MICHAEL O'LEARY—Irishmen  
Must name his name with pride,  
Who took one barricade, and then  
Another, as in his stride.

Five Huns manned the first barricade;  
He promptly slew the lot;  
Two of the next cried "Kamerad";  
The other three were not.

Ten against one—big odds; nathless  
The one man won the day;  
S. Michael must have helped, I guess,  
His namesake in that fray.

He saved his mates, and, saving these,  
Saved the position too;  
'Twas not mere death to enemies—  
That act of derring-do.

He wears the V. C. for his deed,  
And wears it of his right,  
For never man in time of need  
Fought a more gallant fight.

Land of the Harp, you have, ywis,  
 Bred many a doughty son,  
 But never a stauncher son than this,  
 Never a braver one.

Michael O'Leary, I would state  
 That very certainly  
 I'd sooner have you as a mate  
 Than as an enemy.

### *A Royal Fusilier*

UPON the eternal scroll of fame,  
 By deeds that make old tales seem tame,  
 Lance-Sergeant Palmer set his name.

What did he do? Nay, rather say—  
 What did he not do on the day  
 He broke the Prussian's fenced array?

His officers had fallen; he  
 Took the command, and instantly  
 Sprang to the head of his company.

Under a pom-pom's point-blank fire,  
 He cut his way thro' hindering wire  
 Straight to the goal of his desire.

That was the trench wherein the gun  
 Was set, with many a bombing Hun;  
 He, with six mates, slew every one.

Counter-attacks soon came, and one,  
 The eighth, that came when he had gone  
 After more bombs, brought back the Hun.

Bombed off his feet, this man of men  
 Rose up, rallied his mates, and then  
 Captured the lost trench once again.

Thenceforth they held it; and that stay  
 Settled the issue of the fray;  
 It saved the line, and won the day.

Among those who, by Heaven's grace,  
 Stand forth as champions of their race,  
 Palmer, you claim a front-rank place.

Two words, upon your cross engraved,  
 Show what alarms of death you braved;  
 What shall they add whose lives you saved?

### ***Dardan Bay***

**R**IGHT up the Dardanelles he went,  
 'Neath five mine-lines that barred the track,  
 Sent down a Turkish battleship, spent  
 Nine hours submerged, and then won back.

He braved torpedo-boats, gun-fire,  
 A treacherous current, and, I'm half  
 Afraid, incurred the vengeful ire  
 Of the whole German Naval Staff.

'Twas their head-quarters swept away;  
 Guarding the mine-field, and by it  
 Guarded, the warship fell a prey  
 To one man's pluck and grit and wit.

He hurt no peaceful ship; not one  
 Woman or child was drowned; that's how  
 Lieutenant Holbrook fought the Hun;  
 That's why he wears the V. C. now.

## *A Volcano*

SHE'S not a warlike country, but,  
When Britain has to fight,  
She fights amain; five nations put  
Their strength into her might.

She wanted to dislodge the Huns  
From some well-wired trench-lines;  
She did it with 500 tons  
Of ammonal in mines.

Up in the air they, and their guns  
Were scattered wide and far;  
They found themselves, in fact—those Huns—  
Hoist with their own petard.

Then spoke the roar of British guns,  
And forward to the attack,  
Wave after wave, swept Britain's sons,  
And thrust the Prussians back.

They rushed the line, the town, the height;  
They smashed the fenced array;  
And in the centre of the fight—  
Well, 'twas Ould Ireland's day.

Ah ye, whose cruel cannons broke  
A little land's repose,  
Now shall ye, stricken with your own stroke,  
Find ye were your own foes.

'Tis from the land you basely tore  
From those, to whom was given



Your pledge they should be safe from war,  
That you are being driven.

You've put your trust in lawless might;  
You've wrought all infamies;  
You've sinned against all Right and Light;  
Now come the penalties.

### *Some Private*

HARRY O'HARA lay in hospital  
Needing prolonged repair;  
He had, in fact, some seventy wounds in all  
Upon him, here and there.

A Private in the Middlesex Regiment—  
How he got into it  
Is not quite clear—he'd made it evident  
He had the "Die-Hards' " grit.

A little man as soldiers go, he yet  
Had played a hero's part;  
Small tho' his body was, in it was set  
A great, a Titan heart.

Far off he was, and in a foreign land,  
When the war-tidings came;  
He straight resolved that he must take a hand  
In the great battle-game.

He joined the Sikhs in India on his way,  
Changing his name to suit,  
And so he got to France, where he and they,  
Tho' horsemen, fought on foot.

'Twas thus that, as he fought in the front line,  
 He got his wounds, and won  
 The Military Medal—proof and sign  
 Of duty bravely done.

The bond of camaraderie in war,  
 A bond no wrench can snap,  
 Obliterates race differences, for  
 O'Hara is a Jap.

### *Meditation*

WITHIN the trenches, when there's nothing doing,  
 He stands and ponders;  
 Is it to thoughts of billing and of cooing  
 That his mind wanders?

Within some Recreation hut, or maybe  
 Tent, he sits scowling;  
 Is it because some French or Belgian baby  
 Nearby is howling?

O no; altho' his sweetheart's not forgotten,  
 Tho' babes may bawl out,  
 He's thinking to himself—"O this is rotten;  
 My baccy's all out".

### *Laconics*

VALOUR and taciturnity  
 Are, as it were, birds of a feather;  
 At any rate it seems to be  
 Fact that they often go together.

Of the first sailor Horace said  
 His heart was cased in oak and copper;  
 What of the A. B. found half-dead,  
 And his report—"We trimmed 'em proper"?

### *A Stowaway*

"I TRIED to get back to the Old Countree",  
 He said, "ten years ago;  
 But they chucked me out 'ere they left the quay,  
 And used swear-words also.

"To work my passage was my intent,  
 And to work I was keen and fain;  
 But their language was most impertinent,  
 And I never tried again.

"I'm going back now in khaki clad,  
 And the fare won't trouble me,  
 For, tho' no longer a beardless lad,  
 I'm to fight for the Old Countree".

### *Pro Patria*

CHILDLESS? Ah yes. We had a son—  
 As fair a son as one might see;  
 We hoped—he was our only one—  
 He'd never leave his dad and me.

He might have won to high degree  
 In many things that make men great;

Naught would content him but that he  
Should be a soldier of the State.

Ah well. We let him have his way;  
He fell—we feared it would be so,  
But, when we think of him, we say,  
“He led the charge that broke the foe”.











*Dedicated to Our Men-at-Arms*

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# WAR-BALLADS and VERSES

Third Series

BY  
WILLIAM HATHORN MILLS

San Bernardino, California  
THE BARNUM & FLAGG COMPANY  
1918  
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### *A Battle Prayer*

O Lord of war, our armies fight  
Against a ruthless tyranny;  
Strengthen, we pray, with Thine Own might  
Their hearts, and give them victory.

O Prince of peace, bring in thro' war  
The peace of God—peace all divine—  
And may that peace for evermore  
Keep us at one with Thee and Thine.



## ***Foreword***

This third series of War-Ballads collects some published leaflets and odd bits of verse, omitted in the earlier series, and adds some later verses. It completes a set of booklets published mainly for distribution to our fighting men. The writer, a septuagenarian, must now hand on the torch.

## **Contents**

	Page
A Battle-Prayer .....	3
War .....	7
Par Nobile .....	8
Huns .....	9
Quousque? .....	11
Blasphemy .....	12
The Hymn of Hate.....	12
Crusaders .....	14
Romania .....	15
Echoes from Tooley Street.....	15
For Valour .....	17
Number One .....	18
The Doom of Ahab.....	20
A Self-Accuser .....	20
A Round Table.....	21
Tall Talk .....	22
Vive la France.....	22
Some Columbian .....	23
Grit .....	23
Verdun .....	24
At the Front.....	25

NOTE.—For details of facts see The Bryce Report on alleged German outrages; Belgians Under the German Eagle, by Jean Massart; German Atrocities, an official investigation, by J. H. Morgan; The New Ycrk Evening Sun, August 10, 1914; The Los Angeles Examiner, June 25, 1917; The Los Angeles Times, January 26, 1918; The Bookman, March, 1918.

## *War*

“WAR”—’twas a soldier spoke—“is hell”;  
 Aye, and yet Heaven itself once knew  
 War, when the hosts of Michael  
 Fought with the Dragon and his crew.

War waged by fiends is devilry;  
 It’s sin and pain and nothing more;  
 But angels, too, fight ceaselessly,  
 And their war is a holy war.

“I came not to bring peace on earth,  
 But war”, proclaimed Creation’s Lord;  
 As travail-pangs shape for the birth,  
 His peace is fashioned by the sword.

All human wars make misery—  
 Anguish that Heaven alone can heal;  
 Yes, but from out the agony  
 Spring better things; woe leads to weal.

The conscience of the world acquires  
 A truer sense of what should be:  
 Learns to desire what Right desires:  
 Learns to love peace and unity.

And in the end Right conquers Might;  
 It casts down tyranny and pride;  
 The fight is long, but there is light,  
 The light of peace, at even-tide.

Nor that alone; for they may win,  
 Who fight for Truth and Liberty,

As taught by war's stern discipline,  
A loftier humanity.

They, who in peace were ne'er-do-weels,  
In war see what they were; and then  
A something to their hearts appeals,  
That conquers self, and makes them men.

The sense of duty, Honour's claims,  
The spirit of camaraderie,  
The tempers born of noble aims,  
Are as constraints to chivalry.

Under the storm of shot and shell  
They find their comrades staunch and true;  
It lifts them—ah, if war be hell,  
It is a purgatory too.

Evil is in the world, and, till  
Cast out by war, must vex our life;  
The Cross meant war; it means it still,  
But means, too, victory in the strife.

### *Par Nobile Fratrum*

(Written for the British-American League, Los Angeles.)

STAND side by side, John Bull  
And Jonathan,  
Serving a dutiful  
Service of man.  
Union is strength; thus strong,  
In the long fight  
Waged between Right and Wrong,  
Stand for the Right.



Stand up for world-wide peace,  
 For Liberty;  
 Let your names spell surcease  
 Of tyranny.  
 Rid every little State  
 Of the grim fear  
 That foes may violate  
 All it holds dear.

Let your twin navies keep  
 Watch o'er the sea,  
 And make the vasty deep  
 A highway free—  
 Free to all argosies  
 Bearing their stores  
 Of foods and merchandise  
 To far-off shores.

So shall your influence,  
 Your banded might,  
 Work, under Providence,  
 A reign of Right.  
 So shall the world become  
 A Unity,  
 And every hearth and home  
 A sanctuary.

### *Huns*

THEY murder babes, shame women, loot,  
 Use poisonous gases, liquid fire,  
 Asphyxiating shells, and shoot  
 Prisoners, to glut their lust and ire.

They mutilate and insult the slain  
 With foul and hideous outrages,  
 Torpedo harmless liners, rain  
 Bombs on defenceless villages.

Women and children, roped, are made  
 Screens for their firing companies;  
 Red Cross and White Flag hang displayed  
 O'er their machine-guns as disguise.

Liars and—well, there's mystery  
 In their idea that other souls  
 Will take what's a transparent lie  
 For truth, the same not being moles.

No form of "frightfulness", it seems,  
 Is practised by these sons of blood—  
 No horror mocking nightmare-dreams—  
 But Kultur proves it right and good.

Kultur? Such culture is of hell;  
 It's all a blend of sophistries  
 And lies, a creed most infidel,  
 A cult of Mephistopheles.

The Pharisees were by holy lips  
 Called Hypocrites in days of yore;  
 Prussian hypocrisies eclipse  
 All theirs, and, I guess, a thousand more.

One crowning act of infamy  
 Challenged them, and to them seemed good;  
 An English nurse, they said, must die.  
 She died. They shot her in cold blood.

This is the race that claims to be  
 God's choice, God's glory, and God's crown.  
 Ah Heaven, avenge the blasphemy,  
 And cast this brood of monsters down.

### *Quousque Tandem?*

I T seemed as tho' the Huns had reached  
 The summit of their infamies  
 When they shot Nurse Cavell, and preached  
 A gospel of atrocities.

They hadn't; it yet remained to wreck  
 And sink—not trading ships alone,  
 But—floating hospitals, nor reck  
 That half the wounded were their own.

As for the foul obscenities  
 That marked the track of their retreat,  
 Apes would have scorned such acts as these;  
~~Fiends~~ had disdained such dirty feet.

Viler atrocities, and yet  
 More vile, continually swell  
 The tale of their offence, and set  
 New records on the charts of hell.

The wonder is that all the world,  
 From North to South, from West to East,  
 Has not arisen in wrath, and hurled  
 Destruction on the abysmal Beast.

## *Blasphemy*

THEY knew their emperors were but men—  
 And often brutes at that,  
 Who rose to power thro' blood, and then  
 On blood and groans grew fat—  
 Yet servile Romans deified  
 Those emperors, and gave  
 Them honours, such as crazy pride  
 Alone could seek or crave.

Even Napoleon, tho' he thought,  
 In mad pursuit of fame,  
 To rule the wide world, never sought  
 Such blasphemous acclaim.  
 But German bards now bend their knees,  
 In rank idolatry,  
 And call their Kaiser "Prince of Peace",  
 Nor reck the blasphemy.

Aye, and they name him "Lord of War"—  
 A title all divine,  
 And think their hordes, with him as Thor,  
 Will "conquer in that sign".  
 Whose is the fault? His, or the crew's,  
 That vaunts his majesty?  
 We know not, but we tell that Muse  
 Her blasphemy is a lie.

## *"The Hymn of Hate"*

"HELL has no fury like a woman scorned"—  
 The poet must have scorned some dame, I  
 fear—

That's Prussia's temper now, who, tho' forewarned,  
Would not believe the warning, would not hear.

She nursed the fond illusion in her soul  
That Britain's heart was set on world-wide rule;  
She wished to share that first, then grasp the whole,  
And so she broke the peace. O purblind fool!

She thought that Britons would stand idly by,  
While upon Frank and Slav she worked her will;  
Then she would rest awhile; then, by and by,  
Britain would have to pass thro' the same mill.

What made her think of Heaven as glad to be  
Her tool? What robbed her of all common  
sense?

What bade her lie, and reckon it piety?  
Just this—a mad lust of omnipotence.

Treaties to her were scraps of paper, worth  
As bonds and pledges something less than  
naught;

That Might is Right, that lordship of the earth  
Is hers by right divine—that was her thought.

Therefore, when Britain kept her blighted word A  
To Belgium, and refused the proffered bait,  
Britons became to her a race abhorred;  
Her feigned affection turned to rancorous hate.

That was the inspiration of the hymn  
That rants of English lies and perfidy,  
That reckons God a Hun, and calls on Him  
To punish England for her treachery.

Read in this light it is a hymn of praise,  
 A testimonial, a certificate  
 Of blameless character, a creed that says  
 "Falsehood we love; Honour and Truth we hate".

### *Crusaders*

A RED CROSS UNIT left, on dit,\*  
 America for France,  
 Owing Asclepios, it might be  
 Supposed, allegiance.

What did they do when they got there?  
 Did they request the Chief  
 To use them anyhow, anywhere,  
 In ministries of relief?

Not they. As tho' an urgent call  
 Claimed them for instant war,  
 They promptly 'listed, one and all,  
 In the French Flying Corps.

I told the tale, half doubtfully,  
 To an old invalid,  
 A strong religionist; his reply  
 Came back crisp as a creed.

"A very proper spirit", he said;  
 "Quite the right thing to do";  
 And, as he spoke, his aged head  
 Wagged its full sanction too.

O Red Cross Unit, I'm inclined  
 To think you must have had  
 A notion in your conjoint mind  
 That was not wholly bad.

\*—at the members' own cost, and before America entered the war.

### *Romania*

FOUNDED, some eighteen hundred years ago,  
 By Trajan, as a Roman colony  
 To guard one frontier of his empery  
 From inroads of the Asiatic foe—  
 That was your birth, Romania, and, tho'  
 O'erswept by wave on wave of savagery,  
 Still have you kept unbroke your unity,  
 And risen again from wrack and overthrow.  
 To-day you fight for what you deemed to be,  
 Aye, and what is, the Right, and, tho' betrayed  
 And wronged, have never flinched, never backed  
 down.  
 Courage, brave heart! Fight on, and you shall see  
 Your hopes fulfilled, your sacrifice repaid,  
 And your true heritage made all your own.

August 23, 1917.

### *Echoes from Tooley Street*

“WE, the people of all England”—thus importantly began  
 Some demand that claimed all England's voice  
 as its authority:

Something that professed to better Magna Charta's scope and plan.

Well, and what men, and how many, signed the paper? Tailors three.

Cheek unique? Well, no; we've got a talker who can match the three—

Nay, can go one better than they went in calm effrontery;

"We will", or "We will not"—thus he speaks, implying that the "We"

Comes from Uncle Sam concentrated in his personality.

"We will send our boys", he says, "to fight for England only when

She has rallied hers—her slackers: there are half a million here,

Aye, and more at home—reserves magnificent of fighting men".

"We"—that is, he claims to voice the will of half a hemisphere.

Not for England is the battle, not for Belgium, not for France;

Not for any single nation do the war-drums beat their roll;

'Tis the whole world's need that, clamant, bids America "Advance",

And its battle-cries are "Justice: Freedom: Peace: from pole to pole".

Aye, and she has come to know it, and is arming for the fray;



Not for this State, nor for that State, is she  
 marshalling her war;  
 Voices as of many waters call her, and her actions  
 say  
 That which bids all lesser voices hold their peace  
 for evermore.

### *For Valour*

GEORGE WILSON, newsboy, who had been  
 A soldier, and had served his time,  
 Rejoined the Colours, being keen  
 To prove he hadn't passed his prime.

He hadn't; he was at his best;  
 Aye, and that best was good indeed;  
 The issue made him manifest  
 As stark in fight and staunch in need.

Hard by Verneuil, his company  
 By a machine-gun was annoyed;  
 He made his mind up speedily  
 That the pom-pom must be destroyed.

So, with one comrade, this true son  
 Of Mars set out on his design;  
 His mate soon fell; Wilson went on  
 Until he reached the firing-line.

He shot seven men who worked the gun,  
 Seized it, and turned it on the foe,  
 Till, all its ammunition done,  
 He reckoned that it was time to go.

That wasn't all; as he began  
 To start upon his homeward tramp,  
 He spied a wounded rifleman,  
 And bore him safely back to camp.

What further? Later wounds, alack!  
 Disabled him from acts of war;  
 So to his old trade he went back,  
 And sells newspapers as before.

His life is now a peaceful life;  
 Aye, but he wears a memory  
 Of how he bore him in the strife—  
 A bronze cross formy—the V. C.

### *Number One*

“WE’VE had soft soap, a lot of it, too much of it”—he said—  
 “Tall talk of England’s glory, and the winning of the war;  
 “What we want now”—it came to this—“is beef and beer and bread,  
 And talk of England’s glory is just soap, and nothing more”.

O selfish soul and sordid, have you ever laid to heart  
 What glory means to England? You reckon it renown  
 In war, but battle-glory is glory but in part,  
 And the glory of Old England is a spiritual crown.

Aye, it reflects the glory that rests upon the Cross,  
 Or that which painters picture in the halo of a  
 Saint;

It's the glory of an honour, that chooses rather loss  
 Than gain won thro' dishonour, gain that's  
 smirched by stain or taint:

It stands in the fulfilment of every promise plight:  
 In the service of the duties to which each soul is  
 born;

It takes for rules of conduct the high laws of Truth  
 and Right;  
 It champions the weak, and laughs fainthearted-  
 ness to scorn.

Redress of wrongs, world-peace secured against ty-  
 rannic Might,

The weal of little peoples, the bright lamp of  
 Freedom lit—

This is what England seeks that she may keep her  
 honour bright;

This is the glory that she craves, and you—you  
 mock at it!

You want your wages raised. Ah well, compare the  
 wage you get

With the pittance of the soldier who is fighting  
 for your homes;

You are of those who suffer least, and Justice will,  
 you bet,

Lesson you pretty sternly when the day of reck-  
 oning comes.

Don't dare to speak of England, as tho' in any way  
 You represented what she is, or wills that you  
 should be;  
 Speak for yourself, and for your mates maybe, but  
 do not lay  
 Upon your souls the added guilt of a foul blas-  
 phemy.

### *The Doom of Ahab*

**A**HAB served Baal, and thereby  
 Made Israel to sin;  
 He was for his iniquity  
 Cut off with all his kin.

Wilhelm, the self-idolator,  
 Makes Germany to sin;  
 He dooms to Ahab's doom therefore  
 Himself, and all his kin.

The greater power, the greater sin,  
 The greater punishment—  
 Aye, and the larger; kith and kin  
 May share the chastisement.

Bane of the Hohenzollern<sup>n</sup> line,  
 Wilhelm, thy race is run;  
 And—word of doom to thee and thine—  
 Thy record is, "Ill done".

### *A Self-Accuser*

**H**E talks of Russia's tyranny,  
 Of France on vengeance bent,  
 Of England's shameless treachery,  
 And counts it argument.

He but imputes himself; each lie  
 Reflects his own foul guilt;  
 His acts repeat the indictment—aye,  
 And prove it to the hilt.

And yet he claims that history  
 Will clear him of all blame;  
 Nay, it will lay Cain's infamy,  
 Cain's brand, upon his name.

E'en now the fell Erinyes  
 Are hard upon his track;  
 They hunt him—hell's winged huntresses,  
 And who shall call them back?

### *A Round Table*

OR ever the world-war began,  
 Wall-maps, designed for use in schools,  
 Showed on one sheet the whole earth's span,  
 And on it Britain, blazoned gules.

They taught, those maps, that Britain meant—  
 Not the small British isles alone,  
 But—a world-empire, whose content  
 Embraced five nations, blent in one.

What then was true, is yet more true  
 As thing are now; Great Britain still,  
 And Greater Britain, mean not two  
 Britains, but one—one folk, one will.

Gules, that is, rose-red—mystic hue  
 Of love, of beauty, of emprise

To champion innocence, and renew  
The fruits and flowers of Paradise.

That is the temper that unites  
Them of the British family  
In one great fellowship of Knights,  
Who stand for Right and Liberty.

### *Tall Talk*

“OUR iron will”—the Reichstag’s President  
Said—“shall turn into deeds”.  
Nay; the Hun will, and all its foul intent,  
Shall be as broken reeds.

“The sharp steel of”—what he was pleased to call—  
“The clean sword in our hands  
Shall hew the way to fortune”—shall grab all,  
That is, earth’s seas and lands.

For bombast and for braggadocio  
That well might take the cake;  
It would perhaps, but that, if it were so,  
The Kaiser’s heart would break.

### *Vive la France!*

FAIR France”, we said; “Fair France”, we say;  
Still fair despite the outraging foe;  
The beauty that is hers to-day  
Is not a thing of outward show.

Beauty of pluck, of chivalry,  
Of self-devotion, of romance—  
All this is hers, and bids us say, *say, say,*  
“Ah, qu’elle est belle! Ah, la belle France”!

### *Some Columbian*

**H**E'D got his pom-pom just about  
 Rigged up upon its stand,  
 When a bit of shrapnel found him out,  
 And took off his right hand.

The Huns were passing out of range,  
 And it filled his soul with ire,  
 For with one hand he couldn't change  
 His pom-pom's line of fire.

What could he do? With his left hand  
 He drew his pocket-gun,  
 And shot till that indignant band  
 Came back to spoil his fun.

Then his machine-gun spoke, and threw  
 Death at them till they fled—  
 All that could flee—a scattered crew,  
 For most of them were dead.

Two mates, brought by a happy chance,  
 Found him, afaint with pain;  
 They got him to the Ambulance,  
 And he wants to fight again.

### *Grit*

**T**HE stretcher-bearers searched one night  
 A battle-field in France  
 To bring men wounded in the fight  
 Back to the Ambulance;  
 'Twas grim work; all around were lying  
 Wounded and helpless, dead and dying.

They came to a sore-wounded Kelt,  
 Paused, looked at him, and said,  
 "He's dead"; but, as one stooped and felt  
 The corpse, it muttered, "Dead!  
 Not I; and"—the voice grew almost strident—  
 "I'm hanged if I mean to die". He didn't.

### *Verdun*

"ON ne passe pas". They shall not pass,  
 For France has barred the way,  
 What tho' their legions, mass on mass,  
 Batter her fenced array.

"On ne passe pas". They shall not pass;  
 Ere they can reach their goal,  
 French guns shall mow them down like grass,  
 And shake their tyrant's soul.

"On ne passe pas". They shall not pass;  
 Force cannot break a will,  
 Whose motto, "Toujours de l'audace",  
 Makes France unconquered still.

"On ne passe pas". They shall not pass;  
 A mightier defence  
 Than bars of steel and gates of brass  
 Defies their insolence.

"On ne passe pas". They shall not pass;  
 Heroes of long-ago,  
 By blood-bond, by l'esprit de race,  
 Summoned, confront the foe.



“On ne passe pas”. They shall not pass;  
 Roland is here, and mark,  
 Where gleam her morion and cuirass,  
 A vision of Jeanne d’Arc.

“On ne passe pas”. They shall not pass;  
 Not France alone says “Nay”;  
 The sword that turned the prophet’s ass  
 Is drawn for her to-day.

“On ne passe pas”. They shall not pass;  
 The way by which they came  
 Shall see them hurrying back, Dieu grace,  
 In terror and in shame.

### *At the Front*

“**A**DVANCE, America, Advance”—  
 That was the call that rang,  
 Thundered from Belgium and from France  
 By battle-roar and clang.

The Great Republic heard, and yet  
 Held back from day to day.  
 What made her pause as loth to set  
 Her battle in array?

This—that she had not yet one heart,  
 One undivided soul;  
 Self-centred atoms stood apart,  
 And each had its own goal.

Aye, and old jealousies had place  
     In her perplexity;  
 Not of one mind, one will, one race,  
     Was all her family.

Peace-prophets preached. Europe's affairs,  
     Her wars, her aims, her need—  
 These things were no concern of theirs;  
     That was their old-time creed.

Only the witness of events,  
     And what men learnt thereby,  
 Might weld these jarring elements  
     Into a Unity.

It came. Hearts bowed to Right's demand,  
     And, when the war-alarms  
 Rang out at last across the land,  
     A nation sprang to arms.

And now not least of those who fight  
     To beat the tyrant down,  
 Whose battle-words are Truth and Right,  
     Columbia holds her own.

“Advance, America, Advance;  
     Come to the front in all  
 That makes for world-deliverance  
     From Ill”. That's Gabriel's call.















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